



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 28, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation of a Vision for Science Education in Michigan

This past year, Michigan's elementary and middle grades students reversed stagnant or downward trends and showed improvement in science proficiency in both grades tested. However, even with this improvement, barely more than a quarter of Michigan children are proficient in science. This situation reaches well beyond our students as evidenced by thousands of jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields in Michigan going unfilled due to a lack of skills and expertise.

As a result of the state's needs and student success, the department will address a range of considerations that are needed to systemically improve the quality and focus of science education in Michigan for years to come. The first presentation will provide a vision of what is possible, as well as the current state of science education in Michigan. During subsequent months, Michigan Department of Education staff will provide information about the following issues as relevant to science education:

- Infrastructure and capacity to improve science education,
- Assessment considerations for science learning,
- Teacher certification and credentialing for science,
- School-based considerations for science, including schedules, content integration, course sequences, and materials and costs.

This information should provide insight and discussion to better understand the needs and considerations to improve science education in Michigan.

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